

**FOCUSING ON MARAD's PEOPLE****SAR's Willie Barnes' award-winning environmental work benefits MARAD and his local community****— By Susan Clark, Public Affairs officer —**

Willie Barnes takes his job seriously. As environmental program manager for MARAD's South Atlantic Region, he has involved the office in award-winning environmental work, and has represented the office on the Norfolk Environmental Commission. He has coordinated environmental programs with a number of other agencies, such as the Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Then, on his own time, he has been an active volunteer with the Norfolk Environmental Commission for more than 13 years, and he was recently elected its chairman.

Barnes says it's "kind of ironic" that he ended up in the environmental field, even though he was an "outdoorsy kind of kid" growing up in Norfolk. Back then, he thought of either becoming a police officer or a reporter. He went to college intending to major in journalism but dropped out, and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.

In the military he worked in a waste-water treatment plant, where he became fascinated by water chemistry and

plant operations. When he went back to college, he earned a degree in environmental health and environmental science.

"My job is a combination of science and journalism," he said. "And it's got a little bit of that law enforcement thrown in."

Barnes led the effort to adopt and maintain a neighborhood wetland site as an outreach effort under a community-sponsored program, the Elizabeth River Project.

*File photo*

**South Atlantic Region's Willie Barnes (right) helps coworkers plant trees on Earth Day in April 2005, at Norfolk, Va.**

The South Atlantic Region office has unofficially adopted the area downriver from the local shipyards, and was honored in January 2005 and January 2006 by the Elizabeth River Project for distinguished performance in maintaining the wetland site.

Also, Barnes has led the South Atlantic Region's effort for "Clean the Bay Day" for the past several years.

"Mr. Barnes has significantly enhanced the region's environmental compliance posture," said South Atlantic Region Director Nuns Jain.

"I am exceedingly proud to have him as a member of the South Atlantic region leadership team," Jain added.

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

**Say "Hello" to these new MARAD employees hired during October:**

**CRAIG BRADLEY**, Headquarters, Oct. 30, 2006  
**RICHARD CALLWOOD**, South Atlantic Region, Oct. 30, 2006  
**ANNE CHARLTON**, Headquarters, Oct. 30, 2006  
**LISA CARTER**, Headquarters, Oct. 1, 2006  
**MARIA HAGUE**, Western Region, Oct. 30, 2006  
**JOSEPH LEE**, Beaumont Reserve Fleet, Oct. 16, 2006  
**MARTIN LIS**, Headquarters, Oct. 1, 2006  
**SIMONA PICKETT**, Headquarters, Oct. 1, 2006